

No dearth of talent!

FOOTBALL League clubs are busier than ever checking on players in the Isthmian and Athenian Leagues. The success of such as Peter Anderson (Hendon) at Luton, Viv Busby (Wycombe Wanderers), John Lacey (Kingstonian) and Ernie Howe (Hounslow) at Fulham, Gordon Hill (Southall) at Millwall and the regular goals from Dave Kemp (Slough) at Crystal Palace, has proved there is no dearth of talent around London.

In addition, of course, any players who fail to make it in the "big time" can always return to their old clubs.

The busiest of all has been Gordon Jago of Millwall. Even though he burnt his fingers last season over Chris Kelly, of

Leatherhead, with little money to buy his only alternative is to follow the trail blazed by Alec Stock in the 50's when he skimmed the cream off the amateur clubs for the then Leyton Orient.

At present three Epsom players, forward Trevor Lees, defender Willie Bennett and midfield man Phil Walker are having extended trials at The Den together with Charlie Pooley, of Dulwich Hamlet, the young striker who turned down overtures from Arsenal last season.

Jago has also kept his interest in Southall and Ealing Borough's midfield man Alan Devonshire but in addition to Southend, Crystal Palace, Fulham, Portsmouth and Queens Park Rangers have entered the lists. Also Hereford are to have Hendon's latest recruit, defender Steve Raglan on a month's trial. Steve, who captained the South of England Schools team, is also a six handicap golfer.

Wycombe's Steve Perrin is, of course, at Crystal Palace and is doing well in the reserves.

Harrow Borough have signed Barry Jobson, the Bishop Auckland full back, who is on a course at nearby Watford Technical College. Jobson had been a regular with the Northern League side for three years and also turned out for Fourth Division Darlington.

Eggie James, the Hendon striker, has gone to the USA on a business trip and is expected to be away for a month. Walthamstow Avenue have signed Terry Sharp (18), a centre-forward from West Ham, who played in their FA Youth Cup winning side last season.

Woking have dispensed with the services of coach Peter Norris; Kingstonian have parted company with midfield man Stuart Esselmont by mutual consent while Chris Brooks, the Finchley striker, has also left the club.

Tilbury's 10-0 win over United Counties League side Biggleswade in the FA Trophy on Saturday was preceded by an 11-0 FA Cup replay victory over Leyton-Wingate on the Tuesday. This game was nearly called off as Tilbury's lights fused. The referee Peter Phillips gave them 30 minutes to get them working again and it was done with a minute to spare.

Their victory had repercussions, for Leyton-Wingate sacked manager Ted Smith and re-appointed Peter Lewis.